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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Date: June 5, 2009

To: Senator William G. Diamond
Representative Emily Cain
Members, Appropriations Committee

From: Senator Nancy B. Sullivan
Representative Pamela Jabar Trinward
Legal and Veterans Affairs

RE: Table Priorities

In accordance with Joint Rule #314, subsection 7, we respectfully submit the Appropriation Table priorities for bills considered by the committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs.

As we have stated before, our priority for this legislative session was to provide funding for 2 veterans services officers (VSO) within the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services. We are grateful that we were able to find a funding source for one VSO, yet have not eased in our effort to fund the second position. One of the bills that is listed as a priority (LD 430) for the table generates significant revenue that could fund the additional VSO position. So, even though there is no bill to be placed on the table specific to the VSO, it is our priority to have any revenue recognized by the other LVA bills placed on the table directed toward a VSO position.

Two bills on the list of those to be placed on the table were removed from consideration of priorities. The first, LD 870 that would provide transportation for veterans, was already enacted as part of the biennial budget. The second, LD 1080 regarding a landlord-tenant study group, will be amended to remove the fiscal note by removing the Attorney General as the director of the study. The remaining priorities are as follows:

#1 LD 430 An Act to Allow the Licensing of Minibars in Hotel Rooms

It is our intent that the revenue generated from this bill be dedicated to funding the second VSO position

2 LD 498 An Act Regard Alcoholic Beverage Tastings

Although the bill is currently associated with a fiscal cost due to the addition of a new inspector position within the Department of Public Safety, the committee believes strongly that the department could administer this law without an additional inspector. The bill maintains the total number of tastings allowed by retail stores that is in current law, 12 per year. It does not expand eligibility of locations but rather only allows for expanded eligibility for products to be tasted by consumers. We recommend an amendment that would require the department to administer this law within existing budgeted resources.

3 LD 368 An Act to Reimburse Debra Bilodeau for Her Expenses Incurred in Connection with her Petition for Appointment as a Foster Parent.

4 LD 193 an Act to Amend the Laws Governing Tournament Games

Thank you for your consideration of our priorities and the suggested amendment to LD 498. Please do not hesitate to contact us or our analyst, Danielle Fox, should you have any questions or concerns.